

Dayton, Oregon
Dec. 9th

Dear Vicki and Jim,

Have you come "down to earth" yet? I'll bet it was hard to get back into the routine again after such a flying trip, the wedding and all! Your card indicated you were having a good time in San Francisco, etc. Jim really saw a lot of friends and acquaintances, didn't he?! Expect you had a nice Thanksgiving Day with Jim's family--we enjoyed the day here a lot--it rained very hard and was almost on the verge of snow for while in the afternoon and Ralph got a bit edgy wondering if they'd have trouble driving home but it slackened off and wasn't bad at all by the time they left at dark--around 5:00, that was. We had the usual goodies and were all stuffed --except Lori--she ate one bite of turkey and one of potatoes and gravy! Marilyn told us that day that she was being hospitalized the following Monday--she wasn't even drinking milk or fruit juices! I haven't talked to Mari since about the first day after Lori went in and must call Frances and ask what they've heard--I talked to Craig Sunday night and he said she had eaten a few bites of something that day--so perhaps she is taking a slight amount of nourishment by now--Marilyn spends most of her time up there with her and took a TV to her and she can play in the childrens playroom whenever she wants to--so she just may feel that she has a pretty good thing going! I hear she'll probably still be in the hospital at Christmas time but can come home for the day--I surely hope and pray she will do a turn about and decide she wants to grow up after all!

Today is sort of grey but not raining. Dad and Ken went to Yamhill both yesterday and today and hope to be up out of the worst of the mud there by tonight--I washed their gloves and muddy clothes last night after rinsing and soaking in a couple of tubs of water! What a mess to have to work in--these two days are almost the only times they haven't worked on our house--last week it was cold or raining every day but Friday so it's coming along pretty good--painting of walls will begin next week or the last of this one if that predicted rain comes in tomorrow--he decided to move the furnace from the utility-bath out into the carport so has to build a brick base to set it up on and then a wall around it to close it in--more work but it was too noisy to be where it had been--

I went to Salem yesterday and began Christmas shopping--the crowd wasn't too bad but it's so hard to decide what to get or if you know what you want, you can't find it--I went to Mac today and did a lot of things necessary but not much Christmas shopping so may go back to Salem tomorrow and try to finish--I'll be working fulltime next week, I think--We've been getting lots of Christmas cards (through the office, I mean) already and I haven't addressed any yet--my usual speed and efficiency at this time of year--Ha.

Listening to the news I see that people can't mail any packages now to places over 300 miles away until the imminent railroad strike is settled or the military takes it over or whatever-This is really great right at Christmas time!

I saw lots of Christmas trees for sale today-I was tempted but guess we'll wait awhile and see if Jerry is coming home or not-we had a call from him Thanksgiving night and he said the captain was considering bringing a plane load of fellas over to the west coast on the 17th and returning on the 28th-but nothing definite and we haven't heard any more-oh, yes, we had an invitation to Mike's wedding in Honolulu a week from Sat.-would love to go-and stay awhile-Ha. And Brian's wedding is this Saturday -we're missing all of them-can't play favorites.

There isn't too much news so I'll sign off and iron a few things-including dad's bowling shirt-tonight's his team night. Then I'll whip up the hem in the sleeves I cut off of my new purple dress-I think I'll like it a lot better with short sleeves-may even wear it sometime!

We're anxious to hear about the rest of your trip and the wedding, etc. so write when you can-and once again, how nice it was to see you both again-

Much love,

Mom, Dad & Ken.

P.S. I trust your car was all intact at the airport when you got back -